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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 2 3 4 IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE 5 ANTITRUST LITIGATION 6 THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: 7 Epic Games, Inc. v. Google LLC et al., Case 8 No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD 9 In re Google Play Consumer Antitrust Litigation, Case No. 3:20-cv-05761-JD 10 State of Utah et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case 11 No. 3:21-cy-05227-JD 12 Match Group, LLC et al. v. Google LLC et al., 13 Case No. 3:22-cv-02746-JD 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

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NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

Case No. 3:21-md-02981-JD

# PLAINTIFFS' OMNIBUS MOTIONS IN **LIMINE AND DEFENDANTS'** RESPONSES THERETO

Judge: Honorable James Donato Courtroom: 11, 19th Floor Date: October 19, 2023 at 1:30 pm

PLAINTIFFS' OMNIBUS MOTIONS IN LIMINE AND DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES THERETO Case Nos. 3:21-md-02981-JD; 3:20-cv-05671-JD; 3:20-cv-05761-JD; 3:21-cv-05227-JD; 3:22-cv-02746-JD

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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 3 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 4 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION 5 Case No. 3:21-md-02981-JD IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE ANTITRUST LITIGATION 7 PLAINTIFFS' MOTION IN LIMINE THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: NO. 1 TO EXCLUDE ARGUMENT & 8 EVIDENCE RE THE OUTCOME OF THE Epic Games, Inc. v. Google LLC et al., Case EPIC V. APPLE LITIGATION No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD 9 10 In re Google Play Consumer Antitrust Judge: Honorable James Donato Litigation, Case No. 3:20-cv-05761-JD Courtroom: 11, 19th Floor 11 Date: October 19, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. State of Utah et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:21-cv-05227-JD 12 13 Match Group, LLC et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:22-cv-02746-JD 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 - 2 -

# TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that after conclusion of all briefing and on October 19, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., in Courtroom 11 of the above-entitled Court, located on the 19th floor of 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102, before the Honorable James Donato, Plaintiffs will move the Court to preclude Google from offering evidence and argument about the outcome of trial and appellate proceedings in Epic Games, Inc. v. Apple Inc., 20-cv-05640-YGR (N.D. Cal. 2020). This Motion is based on this Notice of Motion, Memorandum of Points and Authorities, and all matters with respect to which this Court may take judicial notice, and such oral and documentary evidence as may be presented to the Court at the time of or before the hearing.

The Court should exclude evidence and argument about the outcome of *Epic Games, Inc. v. Apple Inc.*, Case No. 20-cv-05640-YGR (N.D. Cal. 2020), No. 21-16506 (9th Cir. 2021) and any subsequent appellate proceedings (together, the "Apple Litigation") under Federal Rules of Evidence 401, 402, 403, and 802. The Ninth Circuit has long cautioned that allowing jurors to learn about the results of other cases poses the risk that jurors simply defer to those cases' outcomes. *See, e.g., United States v. Sine*, 493 F.3d 1021, 1033-34 (9th Cir. 2007); *Engquist v. Or. Dep't of Agric.*, 478 F.3d 985, 1010 (9th Cir. 2007). Here, not only would evidence of judicial findings and rulings from the Apple Litigation mislead and distract the jury from the central inquiries in this case and waste time, *see* Fed. R. Evid. 401, 402, 403, the findings and orders from the Apple Litigation are also inadmissible hearsay. *See* Fed. R. Evid. 802.

## I. Evidence of the Outcome of the Apple Litigation Should Be Excluded.

A. Evidence of the Apple Litigation's Outcome Has No Probative Value and Is Highly

Prejudicial.

The outcome of the Apple Litigation is irrelevant to the merits of this case. *See* Fed. R. Evid. 401, 402. The Apple Litigation involved a different defendant, different facts, a different antitrust market, and different expert evidence. Judicial findings and rulings from a separate antitrust litigation against Apple do not make it any more or less likely that Google violated the antitrust laws. *See Ohio House LLC v. City of Costa Mesa*, 2022 WL 2189541, at \*2 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 28, 2022) ("[T]hat prior litigants have lost, says nothing about the merits of this case, and would clearly be prejudicial with no counterbalancing probity.").

Not only does the Apple Litigation's outcome have no probative value, its introduction poses "a substantial risk that the jury would import the whole verdict" from the Apple Litigation rather than decide this case on its merits. *Engquist v. Or. Dep't of Agric.*, 478 F.3d 985, 1010 (9th Cir. 2007). That would be improper and highly prejudicial to Plaintiffs. *See* Fed. R. Evid. 403; *Sine*, 493 F.3d at 1033-34 (explaining that evidence of outcomes from other proceedings "should [generally] be excluded under Rule 403"); *Engquist*, 478 F.3d at 1008-10 (affirming exclusion of verdict from prior state court proceeding under Rule 403 because of the "risk or prejudice and confusion the verdict posed"); *see also United States v. Gonzalez-Flores*, 418 F.3d 1093, 1098 (9th

Cir. 2005) ("Where the evidence is of very slight (if any) probative value, it's an abuse of discretion to admit it if there's even a modest likelihood of unfair prejudice or a small risk of misleading the jury.").

In addition, introduction of the Apple Litigation outcome would require extensive and irrelevant evidentiary detours that would needlessly distract from the issues and facts relevant to *this* litigation. To even attempt to defend against the undue prejudice caused by judicial findings and conclusions in that other litigation, Plaintiffs would be forced—in a trial about *Google's* violations of the antitrust laws—to present "time-consuming tangents about the merits" of the antitrust litigation against *Apple*. *See Grace v. Apple, Inc.*, 2020 WL 227404, at \*3 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 15, 2020). The result would be a mini "trial [about *Apple's* challenged iOS app distribution and IAP monopolies] within th[e] trial" on *Google's* monopolies of Android app distribution and in-app billing services. *See Duran v. City of Maywood*, 221 F.3d 1127, 1133 (9th Cir. 2000). This would not only be unduly time-consuming, but also confusing to the jury and thus should be excluded. *See* Fed. R. Evid. 403.

## B. <u>Judicial Findings and Rulings from the Apple Litigation Are Inadmissible Hearsay.</u>

Google may seek to introduce the findings and conclusions from the Apple Litigation so that the jury will accept those as true for purposes of deciding Plaintiffs' claims against Google. But "[a] court judgment is hearsay to the extent that it is offered to prove the truth of the matters asserted in the judgment." *Sine*, 493 F.3d at 1036. Moreover, "the introduction of discrete judicial factfindings and analysis underlying the judgment to prove the truth of those findings and that analysis [also] constitutes the use of hearsay." *Id*. Because the outcome of the Apple Litigation has no relevant, non-hearsay purpose, findings and orders from that litigation are also inadmissible on that basis. *See* Fed. R. Evid. 802.

<sup>1</sup> While "[t]wo hearsay exceptions in the Federal Rules of Evidence explicitly allow for the admission of judgments," neither of these public records exceptions applies here. *See Sine*, 493 F.3d at 1036; *see* Fed. R. Evid. 803(22), (23). "Those exceptions, [] are limited to (1) prior judgments involving criminal convictions subject to more than one year of imprisonment, [] and (2) judgments used to provide 'proof of matters of personal, family or general history, or boundaries." *Id.* at 1036-37.

### II. Evidence of the Existence of the Apple Litigation Is Admissible.

By contrast, the *fact* of the Apple Litigation may be admissible for limited purposes—for example, to show that Plaintiffs also are concerned about anticompetitive conduct by Apple's App Store practices, and not just targeting Google through this litigation. See In re Michaely, 201 F. App'x 440, 441 (9th Cir. 2006) ("Courts generally may take judicial notice to establish the fact of litigation in another court, but not for the truth of the matters in that litigation."). For example, in Oracle America, Inc. v. Google, Inc., Google sought to exclude reference to the plaintiff's prior litigation, in which the plaintiff had alleged that another tech company had wrongfully advertised that its products were compatible with the plaintiff's software. 847 F. Supp. 2d 1178 (N.D. Cal. 2012). The court permitted reference to the prior litigation for only that limited purpose—"to show that [the plaintiff] took fragmentation seriously" (i.e., that plaintiff had sued other companies to protect its software against fragmentation)—but excluded all evidence related to the litigation's "settlement amounts, or any allusions to settlement amounts" (i.e., the litigation's outcome). Id. at 1788; see also Forte v. Schwartz, 2018 WL 10637031, at \*2 (E.D. Cal. Feb. 21, 2018) (permitting plaintiff to "introduce evidence that the lawsuit was filed" but excluding "[d]etails of evidence presented . . . , the conduct of the trial, and the outcome of the lawsuit"). Here, the fact of the Apple Litigation may be admissible for a similar, limited purpose—to avoid a misleading impression that Plaintiffs have challenged only Google's policies—while the outcome and findings remain excluded. See Section I above.

For each independent reason stated above, the Court should exclude evidence of the Apple Litigation's outcome.

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1	UNITED STATES D	ISTRICT COU	URT
2	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
3	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION		
4			
5	IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE	Case No. 3:21	1-md-02981-JD
6	ANTITRUST LITIGATION	DEFENDAN	TS' OPPOSITION TO
7	THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:	PLAINTIFF	S' MOTION IN LIMINE NO. UDE ARGUMENT &
8	Epic Games Inc. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD	<b>EVIDENCE</b>	RE THE OUTCOME OF V. APPLE LITIGATION
9	In re Google Play Consumer Antitrust Litigation, Case No. 3:20-cv-05761-JD	Judge Hon. Ja	ames Donato
10		Date: Time:	October 19, 2023
11	State of Utah et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:21-cv-05227-JD	Courtroom:	1:30 p.m. 11
12	Match Group, LLC, et al. v. Google LLC, et al., Case No. 3:22-cv-01746-JD		
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# DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION IN LIMINE NO. 1: TO EXCLUDE ARGUMENT & EVIDENCE REGARDING THE OUTCOME OF THE EPIC V. APPLE LITIGATION

Evidence that Epic lost its antitrust claims against Apple is relevant to Google's and Epic's arguments at trial and is not hearsay. Google will argue that Android devices and Apple devices compete and that competition between the Google Play store and the Apple App Store is an important part of that device competition. Both Apple's and Google's app stores—like PC and game console app stores that facilitate digital content transactions—use the same basic service fee model. The fact that the Play store's primary competitor was found to lawfully use the same basic service fee model provides a pro-competitive justification for Google's use of the model, making evidence of this outcome relevant and highly probative. Indeed, a ruling against Google in this case could mean that Google's primary competitor, the Apple App Store, is lawfully permitted to use the service fee model under the protection of the *Epic v. Apple* decision, while Google is not.

Google expects Plaintiffs to argue at trial that Apple's use of the same basic service fee model has no bearing on Google's conduct because Apple is also engaged in monopolistic behavior in a different market. But it would be profoundly unfair to allow Plaintiffs to argue that Apple is also a monopolist without informing the jury that Epic brought this claim against Apple and lost. Indeed, Plaintiffs' position that evidence of the Apple lawsuit should be admissible for a limited purpose invites unfair and absurd results. If the jury learns about the fact of Epic's lawsuit against Apple but not its outcome, the jury will be invited to speculate that Epic may have won the lawsuit against Apple, and that a similar verdict against Google is only fair. Finally, because the outcome of Epic v. Apple is introduced to prove effect on the marketplace, it is not hearsay.

### I. ARGUMENT

A. The Outcome of *Epic v. Apple* Is Relevant to and Probative of the Market Conditions Facing the Google Play Store.

Evidence of the lawful use of the basic service fee model being challenged in this case is relevant and highly probative evidence. "Whether an antitrust violation exists necessarily depends on a careful analysis of market realities." *NCAA v. Alston*, 141 S. Ct. 2141, 2158 (2021); *see also Eastman Kodak Co. v. Image Tech. Servs., Inc.*, 504 U.S. 451, 466–68 (1992) (antitrust analysis

requires consideration of the "reality of the market at issue"). Here, the market reality is that the Play store and its primary competitor, the Apple App Store, use the same basic service fee model: they collect a service fee through their own billing system for the benefits the store provides *only* when the developer makes a sale of digital content in an app downloaded from the store. This model is important to attract developers because it enables them to distribute their apps for free to build a broad user base. The reality that Apple, too, uses this basic model shows that Google's business model reflects competition rather than a mechanism to charge supracompetitive fees.

Google expects Plaintiffs to argue that Google's use of the same basic service fee model as Apple is immaterial because Apple is also a monopolist in a separate market. As explained in Google's Motion *in Limine* No. 1, Epic's loss in *Epic v. Apple* precludes Epic from making that argument here. Regardless, without knowing the result of *Epic v. Apple*, the jury will be left with the misimpression that a verdict in Plaintiffs' favor could lead to a similar lawsuit and a similar verdict against Apple, leveling the playing field by requiring the Apple App Store and the Google Play store to operate under the same restrictions. In fact, Epic has already brought such a case against Apple and lost. The jury is entitled to understand that market reality.

Plaintiffs' own motion illustrates the danger of jury speculation. Plaintiffs suggest that they will introduce the fact that Epic sued Apple "to show that Plaintiffs also are concerned about anticompetitive conduct by Apple's App Store practices." Plaintiffs' Motion *in Limine* No. 1 at 3. Plaintiffs cannot have their cake and eat it too by suggesting to the jury that Plaintiffs have sought or may seek similar relief with respect to the Apple App Store while precluding Google from introducing evidence that such claims have already been rejected in *Epic v. Apple*.

Plaintiffs would not be prejudiced by having the jury understand that any "concern[] about anticompetitive conduct by Apple's App Store practices," Mot. at 3, has already been litigated unsuccessfully. "Any danger that the jury" might give "undue weight to" the *Epic v. Apple* judgment can be "dealt with by a cautionary instruction." *United States v. Boulware*, 384 F.3d 794, 808 (9th Cir. 2004). Unlike *Engquist v. Oregon Department of Agriculture*, 478 F.3d 985, 1009 (9th Cir. 2007)—a case Plaintiffs cite—this is not a case where "a jury is likely to give prior verdict against the same defendant more weight than it warrants." *Id.* (citation omitted).

Plaintiffs' other authorities did not involve that situation, either. Here, as in *Boulware* (and not 1 2 Enquist), the prior judgment does not involve the same defendant, and the Court can therefore 3 "easily control[] any danger that the jury would give undue weight to the . . . judgment." *Id.* And 4 Plaintiffs' argument that settlement amounts are inadmissible, see Oracle America, Inc. v. Google, 5 *Inc.*, 847 F. Supp. 2d 1178, 1188 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (holding that "settlement amounts, or any allusions to settlement amounts, cannot be referenced in front of the jury"), is irrelevant. (Epic did 6 7 not settle the Apple case; it lost.) That argument does, however, support Google's Motion in 8 *Limine* to preclude evidence of settlements in this MDL. 9

#### В. The Outcome of the *Epic v. Apple* Decision Is Not Hearsay.

The legal effect of the *Epic v. Apple* decisions on Epic (it lost) and Apple (it can continue using its business model) is not hearsay. "A prior judgment is not hearsay... to the extent that it is offered as legally operative verbal conduct that determined the rights and duties of the parties." Boulware, 384 F.3d at 806–07. Thus, the Epic v. Apple judgment is not hearsay when offered to show that Apple is entitled, according to U.S. courts, to continue conduct centrally relevant to this litigation. Id. ("offering the judgment not for the truth of the matters asserted in the judgment, but rather to establish the judgment's legal effect" was "a nonhearsay purpose").<sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs' argument that separate judgments cannot be admitted for the truth of their findings supports Google's motion to preclude Plaintiffs and their experts from using findings from foreign proceedings to prove Google's liability, see Defendants' Motion in Limine No. 7, but it does not bar the use of the legal effect of the *Epic v. Apple* decision.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Grace v. Apple, Inc., No. 17-CV-00551-LHK, 2020 WL 227404 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 15, 2020) (rejecting evidence of a prior verdict that "was vacated"); Ohio House LLC v. City of Costa Mesa, No. SACV191710JVSPJWX, 2022 WL 2189541, at \*3 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 28, 2022) (defendant could not introduce evidence that plaintiffs' counsel had lost prior cases involving similar theories on behalf of different plaintiffs).

<sup>26</sup> 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See also Callan v. New York Cmty. Bank, 643 F. App'x 666, 667 (9th Cir. 2016) (complaint and findings of fact not hearsay where not offered for truth of contents); Orthotec, LLC v. Reo Spineline, LLC, 438 F. Supp. 2d 1122, 1129 (C.D. Cal. 2006) (outcome of judgment in prior civil case not hearsay); Sempra Energy v. Marsh USA, Inc., No. CV 07-05431 SJO (JCx), 2008 WL 11335050, at \*2 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 15, 2008) ("The fact of the prior judgment against Sempra is not hearsay because it is a 'legally operative' statement of Sempra's rights.").

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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 3 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 4 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION 5 Case No. 3:21-md-02981-JD IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE ANTITRUST LITIGATION 7 PLAINTIFFS' MOTION IN LIMINE THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: NO. 2 TO EXCLUDE ARGUMENT & 8 EVIDENCE REGARDING OTHER Epic Games, Inc. v. Google LLC et al., Case LITIGATION, INVESTIGATIONS, AND No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD 9 SETTLEMENTS INVOLVING **PLAINTIFFS** 10 In re Google Play Consumer Antitrust Litigation, Case No. 3:20-cv-05761-JD 11 State of Utah et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case Judge: Honorable James Donato Courtroom: 11, 19th Floor No. 3:21-cv-05227-JD 12 Date: October 19, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. 13 Match Group, LLC et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:22-cv-02746-JD 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 - 17 -

# TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that after conclusion of all briefing and on October 19, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., in Courtroom 11 of the above-entitled Court, located on the 19th floor of 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102, before the Honorable James Donato, Plaintiffs will move to exclude all argument and evidence about other litigations, investigations, and settlements involving Plaintiffs. This Motion is based on this Notice of Motion, Memorandum of Points and Authorities, and all matters with respect to which this Court may take judicial notice, and such oral and documentary evidence as may be presented to the Court at the time of or before the hearing.

Plaintiffs move to exclude evidence and argument regarding litigation, investigations, and settlements involving the Match Plaintiffs or Epic ("other proceedings"). The Court should exclude evidence of other proceedings because: (1) they have no probative value (Rules 401, 402); (2) they are highly prejudicial, and their introduction would needlessly waste time and confuse the jury (Rule 403); and (3) evidence regarding settlement agreements is inadmissible under Rule 408.

## I. Evidence of Other Proceedings Against Plaintiffs Have No Probative Value.

This is an antitrust case about Google's conduct and its anticompetitive effects. Nevertheless, Google may attempt to introduce irrelevant evidence or arguments regarding unrelated proceedings involving the Match Plaintiffs or Epic in an attempt to distract the jury, smear the Match Plaintiffs and Epic as bad actors, or claim that Google's anticompetitive conduct somehow protects against the risks alleged in the other proceedings. The other proceedings have nothing to do with the claims at issue here and should be excluded under Rules 401 and 402.

First, the other proceedings are irrelevant to Google's liability under the antitrust laws or Google's manufactured counterclaims. For example, FTC v. Match Group Inc. involves allegations that subscription cancellation processes on the Match.com website are not "simple" as required by the Restore Online Shopper's Act. This case has nothing to do with Android apps, much less the Google Play Store. Whether that allegation is true or not (it is not), it is not probative of the relevant issues in this case, i.e., whether Google engaged in antitrust violations or the Match Plaintiffs breached any agreement with Google.

Second, none of the other proceedings involving the Match Plaintiffs or Epic is probative of any bad acts by either. The fact that an investigation or lawsuit was initiated or settled is not evidence that the underlying allegations are true. See United States v. Bailey, 696 F.3d 794, 801 (9th Cir. 2012) ("We risk stating the obvious here: a complaint is merely an accusation of conduct and not, of course, proof that the conduct alleged occurred."); In re Homestore.com, Inc., 2011 WL 291176, at \*1 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 25, 2011) (excluding "reference to or evidence of [p]laintiff's involvement in other litigation" because it was "irrelevant and carrie[d] with it a high risk of prejudice"). Thus, evidence

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Even if the other proceedings had resulted in a finding of liability, evidence of the other proceedings (Continued...)

of the other proceedings involving some of the Match Plaintiffs or Epic has no probative value.

Third, Google may argue that the other proceedings—to the extent they pertain to the Match Plaintiffs' and Epic's respective billing policies—are relevant to show examples of risks to users that justify Google's requirement that all Android developers exclusively use Google's payment solution for all in-app sales of digital goods. This is just post hoc backfilling. Google is free to argue that its challenged policies were intended to ensure the security of payments on Android generally, but it should not be allowed to point to unproven allegations in that regard against the Match Plaintiffs or Epic—allegations that post-dated and had nothing to do with Google's decision to adopt these policies. Google's argument is also patently inconsistent with its actual conduct. While Google requires exclusive use of its own payment solution for in-app sales of digital goods, Google permits the use of other (non-Google) payment solutions for billions of in-app transactions in Android apps, including (i) all in-app sales of physical goods or services; (ii) all in-app sales of digital goods where developers opt to utilize an alternative payment solution under Google's recently announced User Choice Billing program; and (iii) until shortly after this litigation began, all in-app sales of digital goods that could be consumed outside the app in which they were sold.

## II. Evidence of Other Proceedings Against Plaintiffs Are Highly Prejudicial.

Even if the other proceedings had any probative value (they do not), that value would be substantially outweighed by the high potential for unfair prejudice to the Match Plaintiffs and Epic. *See* Fed. R. Evid. 403; *U.S. v. Gonzalez-Flores*, 418 F.3d 1093, 1098 (9th Cir. 2005) ("Where the evidence is of very slight (if any) probative value, it's an abuse of discretion to admit it if there's even a modest likelihood of unfair prejudice or a small risk of misleading the jury." (citation omitted)). Courts in this Circuit routinely exclude evidence regarding unrelated legal proceedings to avoid tainting the merits of the claims at issue. *See id.*; *Grace v. Apple, Inc.*, 2020 WL 227404, at \*2

would still be inadmissible. Under Rule 404(b), such evidence would be improper character evidence.

See Kramas v. Sec. Gas & Oil Inc., 672 F.2d 766, 772 (9th Cir. 1982) (affirming refusal to admit under Rule 404(b) evidence of consent decree entered in SEC enforcement proceeding). And allegations or prior rulings from unrelated legal proceedings would be inadmissible hearsay under Rule 802. See United States v. Sine, 493 F.3d 1021, 1036 (9th Cir. 2007) ("A court judgment is hearsay 'to the extent that it is offered to prove the truth of the matters asserted in the judgment." (citation omitted)); see also Ohio House LLC v. City of Costa Mesa, 2022 WL 2189541, at \*2 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 28, 2022) (excluding "actual prior rulings" because "such evidence would be hearsay").

(N.D. Cal. Jan. 15, 2020) (excluding evidence of other litigation because it held "minimum probative value"); *Ohio House*, 2022 WL 2189541, at \*2 ("[T]hat prior litigants have lost, says nothing about the merits of this case, and would clearly be prejudicial with no counterbalancing probity."). Evidence of other proceedings would misdirect the jury's attention to unproven external allegations that cast Match Plaintiffs and Epic as bad actors who have allegedly violated the law. *See In re Tesla, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2022 WL 17582008, at \*18 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 7, 2022) (probative value of SEC "complaints and settlements [that] resulted in no agency findings" was "minimal" and "outweighed by the risk of undue prejudice because a jury could be tempted to find liability based on the [m]").

In addition, arguments about the other proceedings against Plaintiffs—outside their original factual and legal context—would require confusing evidentiary detours and waste both the Court's and jury's time. Plaintiffs would be forced to introduce testimony and evidence in defense of these other proceedings, which would "likely [] give rise to time-consuming tangents about the [proceedings'] merits[.]" *Grace*, 2020 WL 227404, at \*3. This trial is already complex and will already require several weeks of the jury's close attention to myriad issues without a "full-blown trial within th[e] trial" on issues unrelated to the core antitrust issues in the case. *Duran v. City of Maywood*, 221 F.3d 1127, 1133 (9th Cir. 2000). The Court should prevent such a sideshow.

### III. Evidence of Settlements Is Inadmissible Under Rule 408.

That the Match Plaintiffs or Epic entered into settlement agreements in some of the other proceedings is also inadmissible under Rule 408(a) to prove that Plaintiffs engaged in the conduct alleged here. See Brocklesby v. United States, 767 F.2d 1288, 1292 (9th Cir. 1985) ("Federal Rule of Evidence 408 bars the admission of settlement agreements to prove liability."); United States v. Contra Costa Cnty. Water Dist., 678 F.2d 90, 92 (9th Cir. 1982) (excluding evidence of a settlement between the plaintiff and a third party under Rule 408). This is because settlements are often "motivated by a desire for peace rather than from a concession of the merits of the claim." Fed. R. Evid. 408 advisory committee note. Google cannot introduce evidence or arguments regarding unrelated settlement agreements to prove that the Match Plaintiffs or Epic actually engaged in the conduct alleged in the other proceedings.

For the reasons stated above, the Court should exclude evidence of the other proceedings.

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	Case Nos. 3:21-md-02981-JD; 3:20-cv-056	71-JD; 3:20-cv-05761-JD; 3:21-cv-05227-JD; 3:22-cv-02746-JD

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1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
2	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
3	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION		
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5	IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE ANTITRUST LITIGATION	Case No. 3:21	-md-02981-JD
6 7	THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:	PLAINTIFF	TS' OPPOSITION TO S' MOTION <i>IN LIMINE</i> NO. UDE ARGUMENT &
8	Epic Games Inc. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD	EVIDENCE LITIGATIO	REGARDING OTHER N, INVESTIGATIONS, AND NTS INVOLVING
9	In re Google Play Consumer Antitrust Litigation, Case No. 3:20-cv-05761-JD	PLAINTIFF	S
10 11	State of Utah et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:21-cv-05227-JD	Judge Hon. Ja  Date:	October 19, 2023
12	Match Group, LLC, et al., v. Google LLC, et al., Case No. 3:22-cv-01746-JD	Time: Courtroom:	1:30 p.m. 11
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# DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION IN LIMINE NO. 2: TO EXCLUDE ARGUMENT & EVIDENCE REGARDING OTHER LITIGATION, INVESTIGATIONS, AND SETTLEMENTS INVOLVING PLAINTIFFS

Match and Epic assert that evidence of other proceedings are "highly prejudicial," and "would misdirect the jury's attention to unproven external allegations" because "[t]he fact that an investigation or lawsuit was initiated or settled is not evidence that the underlying allegations are true." *See* Plaintiffs' Motion *in Limine* No. 2 at 1–3. For similar reasons, Google has moved *in limine* to preclude evidence and argument related to litigation and settlements with Developers, the Consumer Class, and State Plaintiffs in this MDL. *See generally* Defendants' Motion *in Limine* No. 4. Google accordingly offered Plaintiffs a stipulation that would have spared the Court the burden of two motions *in limine*. Under Google's proposal, except as necessary to cure misimpressions introduced to the jury at trial, no party would seek to admit evidence of (1) U.S. litigation against Epic or Match or settlements of that litigation or (2) other litigation in this MDL against Google or settlements of that litigation. Plaintiffs rejected that proposal, apparently insisting that settled lawsuits against Google are admissible but settled lawsuits against Epic or Match are not.

Google continues to believe that the sounder course would be to preclude evidence of investigations or cases involving a party that did not reach judgment (including because they were settled), unless introducing such evidence is required to cure a misimpression that a party creates at trial. See In re Air Disaster at Lockerbie Scotland on Dec. 21, 1988, 37 F.3d 804, 817 (2d Cir. 1994) ("A trial court may in the interests of fairness allow otherwise inadmissible evidence on an issue when necessary to rebut a false impression left by inadmissible evidence introduced by an opposing party."); Meyers v. United States, 147 F.2d 663, 667 (9th Cir. 1945) (otherwise-inadmissible evidence allowable when required "in the interests of fairness, for the purpose of refuting evidence offered by an adverse party and of eliminating an unfair prejudice"). Such an order would resolve this motion and Defendants' Motion in Limine No. 4 by precluding evidence and argument related to litigation and settlements with Developers, the Consumer Class, and State Plaintiffs in this MDL.

Absent such an order, the court should deny Plaintiffs' one-sided motion. It would be unfair for Plaintiffs to introduce evidence of lawsuits that Google has settled while barring Google from introducing evidence of lawsuits that Plaintiffs have settled. Plaintiffs suggested during meet and confer that they should be able to introduce evidence of Google's settlements of other litigation in this MDL to rebut any suggestion or evidence Google introduces that it made changes to its business model for competitive rather than litigation reasons. Google disagrees with these assertions. But Google notes that the same would be true of Plaintiffs.

During the time period at issue in this case, both Epic and Match used billing policies that resulted in consumers making unwanted purchases. Whereas Google's billing system includes parental controls to help parents monitor their children's purchases, Epic's *Fortnite* game did not have proper controls. As one parent complained to Epic CEO Tim Sweeney, "Most other games companies have clear steps before you can purchase . . . . Your purchase process has none of these steps and we believe that it's designed to take advantage of young users and accidental purchase." Ex. 1, EPIC\_GOOGLE\_00929129 (Nov. 13, 2019 email from a parent to Tim Sweeney). For its part, Match used a billing process that made it difficult for consumers to cancel recurring subscriptions to its dating apps. As one Match executive explained: "

." Ex. 2, MATCHGOOGLE00087739

At trial, Plaintiffs may claim that Epic and/or Match have made changes to their business practices to address these issues. If Plaintiffs introduce that evidence, then Plaintiffs' logic regarding Google's settlements would mean that Google should be able to introduce evidence that, for example, Epic made changes its billing practices to settle a lawsuit in which the Federal Trade Commission alleged that "Epic—employing myriad design tricks known as 'dark patterns'—has charged consumers" for in-game items to be used in *Fortnite* "without first obtaining their express

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All references to "Ex." are exhibits to the Declaration of Justin P. Raphael served herewith.

1	informed consent, and then has banned consumers from accessing previously paid-for content
2	when they have disputed unauthorized charges with their credit card providers." <sup>2</sup> The FTC
3	alleged that Epic persisted in this conduct even though it "received more than one million
4	complaints from consumers related to such unwanted charges" and Epic employees "raised
5	concerns about unwanted charges and repeatedly recommended measures to address them." <i>Id.</i>
6	¶¶ 34, 35. To resolve those allegations, Epic agreed to pay \$245 million in refunds and make
7	changes to its billing policies. Epic touted those changes in a press release claiming that it wants
8	"to be at the forefront of consumer protection and provide the best experience for our players."
9	Such arguments about "opening the door" are best treated in context. Google therefore
10	asks the Court to preclude evidence of any investigation, litigation that did not reach judgment, or
11	settlement involving any party except to the extent required to cure prejudice at trial, which would
12	resolve this motion and Defendants' Motion in Limine No. 4. Absent such an order excluding
13	evidence and argument related to litigation and settlements with Developers, the Consumer Class,
14	and State Plaintiffs in this MDL, Google requests the Court deny Plaintiffs' one-sided motion.
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23	<sup>2</sup> Complaint at 1, United States of Am. before the Fed. Trade Comm'n In re Epic Games, Inc.,
24	20230517A NYCBAR 307, 2023 WL 4268145 (FTC May 17, 2023).
25	<sup>3</sup> Press Release: Epic Games.com, Epic FTC Settlement and Moving beyond long standing industry practices, (Dec. 19, 2022), <a href="https://www.epicgames.com/site/en-US/news/epic-ftc-">https://www.epicgames.com/site/en-US/news/epic-ftc-</a>

settlement-and-moving-beyond-long-standing-industry-practices. The FTC has alleged that Match has "fail[ed] to provide simple mechanisms for consumers to stop recurring charges" and "in numerous instances, barr[ed] customers who have disputed charges through their financial

institutions from using already paid-for Match.com subscription services." See Mot. for S.J. at 2-

3, FTC v. Match, No. 3:19-cv-02281-K (N.D. Tx. Sept. 11, 2023), ECF No. 198.

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4		DISTRICT COURT
5	NORTHERN DISTR	ICT OF CALIFORNIA
6	SAN FRANCI	ISCO DIVISION
7		Case No. 3:21-md-02981-JD
8	IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE ANTITRUST LITIGATION	
9	THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:	PLAINTIFFS' MOTION IN LIMINE NO. 3 TO EXCLUDE EVIDENCE &
10 11	Epic Games, Inc. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD	ARGUMENT REGARDING TENCENT HOLDINGS LTD.'S DOMICILE
12	In re Google Play Consumer Antitrust Litigation, Case No. 3:20-cv-05761-JD	Judge: Honorable James Donato
13 14	State of Utah et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:21-cv-05227-JD	Courtroom: 11, 19th Floor Date: October 19, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
15	Match Group, LLC et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:22-cv-02746-JD	
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# TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that after conclusion of all briefing and on October 19, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., in Courtroom 11 of the above-entitled Court, located on the 19th floor of 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102, before the Honorable James Donato, Plaintiffs will move to exclude all evidence and argument regarding Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s ("Tencent") domicile. This Motion is based on this Notice of Motion, Memorandum of Points and Authorities, and all matters with respect to which this Court may take judicial notice, and such oral and documentary evidence as may be presented to the Court at the time of or before the hearing.

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Plaintiffs move under Federal Rules of Evidence 401, 402, and 403 to preclude Google from introducing evidence or argument that Epic minority stockholder Tencent Holdings Ltd. ("Tencent"), a video game and technology company, is headquartered, located, or otherwise related to China. Tencent's ties with China are irrelevant to any claim or defense, and the admission of evidence of such ties would be unduly prejudicial to Plaintiffs. Tencent is not a party to this case, Tencent is not Epic's controlling stockholder, and this litigation has nothing to do with China, where Google Play is not even offered. Even if this evidence were somehow relevant, any limited probative value would be far outweighed by the substantial prejudice its introduction would cause by inviting the jury to render a decision based not on the merits but rather on stereotypes about and prejudices against Chinese companies, the Chinese government, Chinese business practices, and U.S.-China relations. I. Evidence and Arguments Regarding Tencent's Relation to China Are Irrelevant. The fact that Tencent is a Chinese company is wholly irrelevant. Tencent is not a party to this case. Google did not depose or attempt to depose any officer or employee of Tencent or take any discovery from Tencent as part of this litigation. Tencent is a minority investor that does not control Epic's decision-making or products.

Moreover, none of the claims in this litigation has anything to do with China. Plaintiffs allege Google engaged in anticompetitive conduct in geographic markets that *exclude* China. *See, e.g.*, Epic Second Am. Compl., Dkt. 378 ¶¶ 74, 157; Match First Am. Compl., Dkt. 380 ¶¶ 77, 141. Google's experts advocate for an even narrower geographic market, limited to the United States. Similarly, Google's counterclaims do not relate in any way to China or Tencent (or any other Epic investor for that matter).

In short, evidence of Tencent's domicile or origins will not tend to prove any fact relevant to this case. As such, any such evidence or arguments should be excluded. *See* Fed. R. Evid. 401, 402; *see also Mech. Mktg., Inc. v. Sixxon Precision Mach. Co., Ltd.*, 2016 WL 7740506, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 24, 2016) ("Irrelevant evidence is not admissible.").

II. Evidence and Arguments Regarding Tencent's Relation to China Is Highly Prejudicial.

Even if Tencent's affiliation with China were somehow relevant (it is not), such evidence

and related arguments would be extremely prejudicial and would invite the jury to decide the case on an improper basis, namely based on stereotypes and prejudices about Chinese companies, the Chinese government, Chinese business practices, and U.S.-China relations.

For example, Google may attempt to deflect its own anticompetitive conduct by portraying itself as a U.S. company under attack from a Chinese company, thus inviting the jury to conclude that the outcome of this litigation should turn on, or has implications for, U.S.-China relations. As another example, Google will argue at trial that the myriad warnings and scare screens it presents to users who seek to download apps outside Google Play are necessary to protect users from malware and spyware. *See, e.g.*, Google Answer to Epic Second Am. Compl., Dkt. 386, ¶ 29. Google should not be allowed to insinuate, and the jury should not be baited to infer, that Epic, by trying to remove these warnings, *intends* to make Android less secure at the behest of Chinese interests. Google does not and cannot point to any evidence to suggest that Epic desires to make Android less safe for users in order to serve foreign interests.

Allowing Google to try to inflame the jury against Epic based on the domicile or origins of one of its investors—specifically on the basis of stereotypical perceptions of the domicile of that investor—would be highly prejudicial. This is why courts routinely exclude this type of evidence. *See Jinro Am. Inc. v. Secure Invs., Inc.*, 266 F.3d 993, 1009 (9th Cir. 2001) (reversing lower court's decision to admit expert testimony regarding "rampant corruption amongst Korean businesses" since it was "the kind of guilt-by-ethnic-association testimony condemned by this and other courts"); *United States ex rel. Kiro v. Jiaherb, Inc.*, 2019 WL 2869186, at \*7 (C.D. Cal. July 3, 2019) (precluding the plaintiff from introducing evidence of "wrongdoing based on the parent company's location" since such evidence "would be highly prejudicial"); *Unicolors, Inc. v. H&M Hennes & Mauritz, L.P.*, 2017 WL 11489792, at \*7 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 15, 2017) (precluding plaintiffs from using "China's alleged reputation for copyright infringement to argue that [the China-based defendant corporation] copied [p]laintiff's work"); *see also Bird v. Glacier Elec. Coop., Inc.*, 255 F.3d 1136, 1151 (9th Cir. 2001) ("Racial stereotyping cannot be condoned in civil cases.").

The same result should follow here. Evidence that an Epic minority investor is affiliated with China adds no value to any aspect of the case and would only serve to inject racial stereotypes

1	into the courtroom to the serious prejudice	e of Plaintiffs. Such evidence and arguments should be
2	excluded. See Fed. R. Evid. 402, 403.	
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	Case Nos. 3:21-md-02981-JD; 3:20-cv-0567	1-JD; 3:20-ev-05761-JD; 3:21-ev-05227-JD; 3:22-ev-02746-JD

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1	UNITED STATES D	ISTRICT COU	U <b>RT</b>
2	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
3	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION		
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5	IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE	Case No. 3:21-md-02981-JD	
6	ANTITRUST LITIGATION		TS' OPPOSITION TO
7	THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:	PLAINTIFFS' MOTION <i>IN LIMINE</i> NO. 3 TO EXCLUDE EVIDENCE &	
8	Epic Games Inc. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD		T REGARDING TENCENT LTD.'S DOMICILE
9	In re Google Play Consumer Antitrust Litigation, Case No. 3:20-cv-05761-JD	Judge Hon. Ja	ames Donato
10	State of Utah et al. v. Google LLC et al., Case No. 3:21-cv-05227-JD	Date: Time: Courtroom:	October 19, 2023 1:30 p.m. 11
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12   13	Match Group, LLC, et al., v. Google LLC, et al., Case No. 3:22-cv-01746-JD		
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## DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION IN LIMINE NO. 3: TO EXCLUDE EVIDENCE & ARGUMENT REGARDING TENCENT HOLDINGS LTD.'S DOMICILE

Plaintiffs do not argue that Tencent is irrelevant to this litigation. After all, Tencent owns 40% of Epic Games, and two Tencent employees sit on Epic's board of directors. Tencent's operation of an app store in China is also relevant to Plaintiffs' gerrymandered market definition—which encompasses every country in the world except China—and to the plausibility of the but-for world Plaintiffs will offer the jury. This is not a political issue or a matter of "stereotypes" or "prejudice," and the Court should not permit Plaintiffs to hide deficiencies in their market definition or their account of the but-for world. *Contra* Plaintiffs' Motion *in Limine* No. 3 ("Mot.") at 2. Because Tencent's Chinese domicile is relevant to the antitrust issues in this case and not prejudicial, the Court should not bar Google from pointing out the simple fact that Tencent is a Chinese company.

## I. The Fact that Tencent is a Chinese Company is Not Prejudicial.

As an initial matter, there is nothing inherently prejudicial, shameful, or negative about the fact that Tencent is a Chinese company, and Google will not suggest otherwise. *Contra* Mot. at 2. Google does not plan to make arguments about U.S.-China relations or invoke any supposedly "stereotypical perceptions" of Chinese businesses. *Contra id.* And Google does not intend to "inject racial stereotypes into the courtroom" on this or any other issue. *Contra id.* at 2–3.

The authorities on which Plaintiffs rely all considered motions *in limine* that sought to prevent a party from introducing stereotypes based on a company's nation of origin. *See, e.g.*, *Jinro Am. Inc. v. Secure Invs., Inc.*, 266 F.3d 993, 1002, 1009 (9th Cir. 2001) (excluding expert testimony "about how, in his experience, 'Korean businessmen' behave in general," which emphasized "rampant corruption among Korean businesses"); *Unicolors, Inc. v. H&M Hennes & Mauritz, L.P.*, 2017 WL 11489792, at \*7 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 15, 2017) (excluding testimony about "China's alleged reputation for copyright infringement"); *United States ex rel. Kiro v. Jiaherb, Inc.*, 2019 WL 2869186, at \*7 (C.D. Cal. July 3, 2019) (excluding evidence "implying an alleged scheme was more likely because Defendant's parent company is located in China"). Plaintiffs offer no specifics about the "stereotypical perceptions of Chinese businesses" that they seek to

exclude. They gesture generally to "U.S.-China relations," Mot. at 2, but have not identified a single instance of stereotyping in Google's documents, witness testimony, or expert reports. That is not a coincidence: Google does not intend to introduce any evidence or argument that the jury should infer *anything* "stereotypical" or negative about Tencent based on its Chinese domicile.

Courts routinely admit the *fact* of a party's Chinese ties. *See Kiro*, 2019 WL 2869186, at \*7 ("The Court agrees that Defendant's business with its parent company [in China] is relevant in that Defendant imports its products into the United States, but that any further suggestion of wrongdoing based on the parent company's location would be highly prejudicial."); *Dentsply Sirona Inc. v. Edge Endo, LLC*, No. 1:17CV1041-JFB-SCY, 2020 WL 6392764, at \*3 (D.N.M. Nov. 2, 2020) (admitting evidence of a supplier's China domicile, because "Plaintiffs have agreed to not offer any evidence regarding an alleged propensity to steal" based on its ties to China and "[t]he identity of the supplier is relevant."); *Allied Trend Int'l, Ltd. et al v. Parcel Pending, Inc. et al.*, No. 8:19-CV-00078-AB-JDE, 2022 WL 2903164, at \*1 (C.D. Cal. May 26, 2022) (refusing to exclude "prejudicial statements about China, Covid-19, or a party's foreign status," because "[i]t does not appear that Defendants will remark on these matters in any gratuitous, prejudicial, or inflammatory manner, and the Court expects them not to.").

## II. Tencent's Chinese Domicile is Relevant to the Core Antitrust Issues in This Case, Including Plaintiffs' Market Definition and Plaintiffs' Theory of the But-for World.

Plaintiffs are wrong that "none of the claims in this litigation has anything to do with China." Mot. at 1. The fact that Tencent is a Chinese company is relevant to this litigation. *See Kiro*, 2019 WL 2869186, at \*7 (fact of parent company's connections to China was "relevant").

First, Chinese app stores such as Tencent are relevant to the geographic market. Plaintiffs have defined relevant markets consisting of the entire world except for China. Google will show at trial that this market is flawed because app stores are country-specific: an app store built for users in Korea who speak Korean and pay with Korean won is not a substitute for an app store built for U.S. users who speak English and pay with U.S. dollars. Google will also show that, if app stores outside the U.S. are relevant, then it is incorrect to exclude app stores designed for China and Plaintiffs have done so merely to drive up Google's supposed market share. Epic's

own expert asserts that Chinese app stores are "potential entrants" that could "expand outside of China." Ex.<sup>1</sup> 3, Bernheim Dep. 196:14–197:9. Google must be able to describe Tencent's role in app distribution in China to counter Plaintiffs' flawed market definition that seeks to exclude China entirely. An accurate, fact-based view of the geographic market is centrally relevant to this antitrust suit. *E.g.*, *Eastman Kodak Co. v. Image Tech. Servs., Inc.*, 504 U.S. 451, 467 (1992) ("In determining the existence of market power . . . this Court has examined closely the economic reality of the market at issue.").

Second, Tencent's links to China are relevant to the competitiveness of Google's app store fees and the plausibility of the but-for world Plaintiffs will offer at trial. There are many app stores available in China, including Tencent's. The evidence regarding those app stores undercuts Plaintiffs' simplistic assertion that forcing Google to change its business model so that other app stores could be more successful would improve quality and reduce prices for consumers. Despite the relatively higher number of Chinese app stores and the fact that Google has chosen not to offer the Play store in China, many app store fees in China are higher, not lower, than Google's. That includes Tencent: its app store charges developers rates up to 55%. Ex. 4, Gentzkow Rep. at Exhibit 10. When Epic argues that Google's service fee is unreasonable, evidence that its major investor with two board seats charges higher rates is relevant.

The fact that Tencent is a Chinese company is not prejudicial. Google will not suggest otherwise or suggest to the jury that they should infer *anything* 'stereotypical' from Tencent's China domicile. Tencent's China-ties, however, are relevant to this litigation, and excluding them would unfairly undermine Google's ability to rebut Plaintiffs' artificial market definition and make arguments about the competitive effects of the challenged conduct.

<sup>1</sup> All references to "Ex." are exhibits to the Declaration of Justin P. Raphael served herewith.

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## **E-FILING ATTESTATION**

I, Gary A. Bornstein, am the ECF User whose ID and password are being used to file this document. In compliance with Civil Local Rule 5-1(h)(3), I hereby attest that each of the signatories identified above has concurred in this filing.

/s/ Gary A. Bornstein

Gary A. Bornstein